

Dear Friends, distinguished guests,

It is with a great joy and a bit of sorrow I send you this greeting today on behalf of the state of Israel.

Joy, because it is an honor and a privilege to have here today the opening of a very special exhibition of a very respected and well known Israeli artists Ms. Rinat Orel and Mr. Pierre Poulain.

And a bit of sorrow as unfortunately I could not be here with you for the this opening.

Rinat and Pierre have already presented their works in various places around the world. This is the first time they are presenting their works in Austria and we are very grateful for the organizer Mr. Hannes Weinelt for his continuous efforts and commitment.

Art is a form of communication and one of the most interesting, stimulating and inspiring ways to get in to the minds and hearts of people. Rinat and Pierre, have managed to develop during years of experimentation and with great intellectual and emotional efforts their own way and unique language.

Israel is a small country, much smaller than Austria, and I'm proud to say that not only that Pierre and Rinat are a wonderful Israelis they are an excellent members of a small community in the northern part of Israel which I know very well as this is my hometown.

The diverse art works of Rinat and Pierre are a glimpse into the Israeli reality and of course their takes on international events and experiences. Those frozen moments and places makes us all reflect back on time and places and encourage interest and thought.

I am confident that each and every one of you will leave this exhibition a little different from the way he or she came in.

I wish you all best of luck and success.



**Hadas Wittenberg Silverstein**

**Deputy Chief of Mission**

**Stellvertretende Missionschefin**

**EMBASSY OF ISRAEL**

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